



MISSION HILLS



NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Mission Est. 1797

Est. 2005

www.mhnconline.org
Summer 2012

Of Special Interest:

The MHNC Board of Governors/Stakeholders General Meeting is held the 1st Monday of each month - 6:30p.m. Mission Police Station Timothy M. Falco Community Room.

PLEASE JOIN US

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**PUBLIC SAFETY
ISSUE**



**BEAUTIFUL
NEIGHBORHOODS
INCREASE
PUBLIC SAFETY
AND
PROPERTY
VALUES**

**A Safe
Community
Begins Here**

4th of July Fireworks....



Beautiful....and Against the Law



The Los Angeles Police Department and The Los Angeles Fire Department, along with The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council and Mission Hills Neighborhood Watch, remind you that **ALL Consumer FIREWORKS** sold to the general public for private use, even the so-called "safe and sane" variety, are **ILLEGAL** in the City of Los Angeles. Those who use, possess or merely transport **ANY** type of fireworks are subject to **SEVERE PENALTY**. Fireworks within the City of Los Angeles are a **violation of Municipal Code 57.55.01A**, or Section 12677 of the Health and Safety Code.



Message from the President

Each July Fourth, thousands of people, most often children and teens, are injured while using illegal consumer fireworks. Despite the dangers of fireworks, few people understand the associated risks i.e. devastating burns, and injuries, fires, and even death. Seniors, children and pets can be especially stressed by the commotion and noise that comes with the use of illegal consumer fireworks in our neighborhoods. Imagine the heartache AND PAIN of burned little fingers, runaway pets and folks pacing nervously in their homes waiting for the onslaught to be over. July 5th is the busiest day of the year at most animal shelters. Dogs are found miles from their homes, confused, disoriented, and exhausted. For the health, safety and well being of our community, The MHNC urges stakeholders to avoid the use of illegal consumer fireworks and instead, enjoy displays of fireworks conducted by trained professionals. Be a good citizen by obeying the law and most of all, be a good neighbor. As soon as it becomes available, our MHNC website and e-blasts will provide information on public fireworks events in Los Angeles.

Congratulations to long time Board member, Randy Kaluva. Randy was appointed Vice President of the Board of Governors at the May 7th MHNC meeting. Randy, an attorney, has a beautiful family and has served on the MHNC Zoning & Land Use Committee.

The MHNC would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the many stakeholders who are taking the time out of their busy schedules to attend our meetings. We are inspired and encouraged by your attendance and invite you to continue your participation in the neighborhood council process. If we are to maintain a vibrant, successful democratic organization, your involvement, input and insight are essential.

We hope you enjoy our first Public Safety Issue. Everyone is concerned about the recent significant increase in crime in Mission Hills. This is unusual for our community and that's why it is now, more than ever, so important to participate and be involved. An involved community is an informed community. The MHNC is proud to partner with LAPD and the Mission Hills Neighborhood Watch and encourage you to support and join our very proactive Watch members. See our Public Safety Committee report on page 3 for contact information for SLO Ruiz and Watch Co-Chair, Betty Ley.

The MHNC wishes you a great Independence Day and a fun, happy, safe summer.

Brad Klimovitch, President



*To give without any reward, or any notice,
has a special quality of its own.
--Anne Morrow Lindbergh*

PUBLIC SAFETY

Residential Burglaries increase in Mission Hills

How to Avoid Becoming a Victim of 'Distraction' Burglary

Distraction Burglary is usually committed by very skilled and well organized groups who prey on vulnerable, trusting individuals, particularly senior citizens.

- ✓ Treat uninvited strangers who come to your house with healthy suspicion. Burglars come in many guises and sometimes are even accompanied by children. If they tell you they have "run out of gas", "are looking for their dog/cat", "had an accident and need to use your phone", **DON'T OPEN THE DOOR**. Tell them you will call someone for help.
- ✓ It is recommended that you not open your door to strangers when it is a 'cold call' i.e. someone whom you have not invited or with whom you do not have an appointment. You are not being impolite, you are being smart. But don't be 'silent'! Always let it be known that someone is home.
- ✓ Legitimate companies do not solicit business door to door. Don't be fooled by the contractors 'pitch' that "we're doing work around the corner and will give you a special price" to install a new driveway, install windows etc. It's worth repeating, legitimate companies do not solicit door to door!
- ✓ Avoid keeping large sums of money in your house and keep valuables out of sight (e.g. jewelry, purse, checkbook, briefcase et cetera).
- ✓ If DWP, Gas Co. or other 'officials' come to your door, always ask for credentials or some form of picture identification – before you open the door. Then verify that it is legitimate. Keeping a list of official phone numbers by your telephone will help. Any genuine caller who is rightfully and lawfully at your front door will not mind that you are taking this precaution.
- ✓ Don't allow strangers who come to your door to 'engage' you in a long conversation. A burglar knows that the longer they keep you talking, the more trusting you will become.
- ✓ Always keep your doors locked when you are at home. If you don't have a door chain or dead bolt, consider having one installed.
- ✓ Don't be fooled or enticed by the word "free" or the offer of "big discounts" et cetera. If it sounds too good to be true, it most certainly is!
- ✓ Never leave someone standing on your porch and re-enter your house leaving your door open and unattended. If you go back into your house, close and immediately lock the door. If you must step out onto the porch, make sure the door is NOT locked and then close the door behind you.
- ✓ Finally, when you leave, even for a short time, secure your property by locking all doors AND windows. Consider leaving your radio on. Placement of a 'Beware of Dog' sign on a gate is cheap and can be a deterrent. Keep shrubs and trees cut back to avoid a place for bad guys to 'hide'. Call 911 if you come home and think a burglar has entered your home, NEVER go inside.

ADOPT-A-BLOCK

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Location: Your Neighborhood
Between 7:00AM and 4:00PM

This is an "I See, I Report" event.

Never put yourself in harms way.

Volunteer your time, eyes and ears!

SLO SUMMIT

Wednesday, June 27, 2012 - 6:30PM to 8:00PM

Mission Community Police station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd. Mission Hills
Timothy Falco Community Room.

Come and meet our Mission Hills Senior Lead Officer, Phillip Ruiz and all the fine Senior Lead Officers at Mission Area.

Learn about crime prevention and how to manage quality of life issues in our communities.

Additional parking is available next door in the Facey Medical parking lot after 6:00pm.

Mission Hills Basic Car 19A43 Crime Report

As of April 6, 2012, Crime in the Mission Hills Area is up +16% compared to the same time last year. Although crime is up, we are doing a lot better than we were approx. (1) month ago, when crime was up nearly +20%. If we continue working together and continue to report criminal and suspicious activity, the crime numbers will continue to drop and we will reach our department wide goal of being -5% at years end. On a positive note, the total arrests made in the Mission Hills Area are up +30% when compared to last year's total arrest. Residential Burglaries and Burglaries From Motor Vehicles continue to be the hottest crimes at the moment. Remember when leaving the house, don't forget to lock your house up and close and secure all windows. And also, remember to never leave anything valuable in your vehicle or in plain sight and remember to always lock your vehicle doors. For more information on '**Adopt-A-Block** and the **SLO Summit**, please contact **Betty Ley at 818-837-3664**

Mission Area's front desk is (818) 838-9800. You may call the station directly for any reason; such as information, crime related advice, quality of life concerns and to make crime reports. However, if you require police service for (crimes in progress), please call either **911** for emergencies or our **Dispatch Center (877) 275-5273** for non-emergencies. Remember not to call my desk, my cell phone or Betty Ley to report crimes in progress or to report loud parties that require police response.

Remember, personal responsibility is the best prevention to becoming a victim.

Senior Lead Officer, Phillip Ruiz
818-838-9843 Desk ■ 818-634-0519 cell

Neighborhood Watch Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of the each month - 7pm at Mission Area

UPCOMING FREE CLASSES FOR SENIORS AT NORTHRIDGE HOSPITAL

Estate Planning Seminar on Wills and Living Trusts.

Learn the differences between wills and trusts and why it's essential to have a properly drafted estate plan. We'll also discuss Medi-Cal and how powers of attorney and health care directives work.

Saturday June 16 10 a.m. to Noon
(Refreshments will be served)

Education Auditorium. To register, please call 818 887-3333

For the Senior who Wants to Stay Social and Active

Just because you're a senior doesn't mean the fun has to stop. Come hear about upcoming trips, activities and social gatherings for seniors—whether you're "suddenly sixties" or "nearly ninety.

Saturday August 25 10 a.m. to Noon
(Refreshments will be served)

Classrooms 3 & 4. To register, please call 818 429-8468

How to Protect Your Assets and Avoid Nursing Home Cost

Presented by Alice A, Salvo, Elder Law Attorney, Previous President, Southern CA Council of Elder Law Attorneys Learn how to avoid losing your house due to nursing home costs and medical bills. Find out why your Living Trust may not help you. You'll also get an initial understanding of Medi-Cal long term care eligibility.

Saturday, September 8th 10 a.m. to Noon
(Refreshments will be served)

Classrooms 3 & 4. To register, please call 818-887-3333

Joyce Sipes, Senior Outreach Chair

KITCHENS

- Relocating microwaves that sit above the counter. Each year thousand of seniors are severely burned as a result of removing their food from microwaves.

- If possible, have the range controls on the front of the stove.
- Use a single-lever faucet that can balance water temperature.

OUTDOORS

- Paint porches with grit to prevent slips
- Railings need regular inspections for sturdiness on porches and steps

LIVING ROOMS

- Remove extension cords, throw rugs and other tripping hazards
- Use light sensitive night lights in unlit stairwells and hallways.
- Place light switches at doors to prevent walking in the dark.
- Install smoke alarms in every room and at least one carbon monoxide alarm. Test the batteries regularly.

BATHROOMS

- Modify baths with tub cutaways.
- Install grab bars.
- Install higher toilets to assist in standing and sitting.
- Apply non-slip strips to bathtubs.
- Use shower seats with back and portable shower heads.
- Paint with contrasting colors.

Another area of senior safety - taking medications correctly. 33% of all hospitalizations of people age 65 and older are taking medications improperly. Don't hesitate or feel embarrassed to ask for help in reading labels or being reminded on the correct dosages. Also know the side of effects of your medications. Dizziness and sleepiness can cause falling.

- Get enough of the right kind of sleep. Interrupted sleep patterns or fragmented sleep drains the body of energy and interferes with brain function. Sluggish reflexes, confusion, inattention, and poor walking gait in the elderly can all result from sleep deprivation.

- Wear sturdy shoes that fit and have low heels. Slippers can easily cause falls, and so can some sandals and flip-flops. Women are advised against wearing high heels and long skirts. Skirts can cause tripping, especially when going up and down steps.

One mistake that seniors make concerning home safety is putting off fixing a hazard. Important that you take care of repairs right away.

Joyce Sipes, Senior Outreach Chair
818-902-2361 or email jjsipes@hotmail.com

"The American City should be a collection of communities where every member has a right to belong. It should be a place where every individual feels safe on his street and in his house. It should be a place where each individual's dignity and self respect is strengthened by the respect and affection of his neighbors."
Lynden Johnson



Let's enjoy our fun in the sun but at the same time, let's be smart, let's be safe and let's all be good neighbors. Here are a few guidelines from the Mission Hills Neighborhood Council for a safe and sane summer.

If you're planning a party or two this summer, **be considerate** and notify your surrounding neighbors. If you have **amplified music** at your party, negotiate with your neighbors a reasonable time at which the music will stop (**L.A. Municipal Code prohibits amplified music that can be heard from more than 150 feet away**). Instruct your party crowd to respect your neighbor's property as they come and go. Give neighbors your phone number for any questions or concerns. Wouldn't you rather have them call you than the police? **Be a good neighbor.**

Planning a little summer remodeling? Make sure your contractor measures up

Hire only state-licensed contractors. Check a contractor's license number on line at www.CSLB.ca.gov or by calling **800-321-2752**. **Confirm the contractor's workers' compensation insurance policy and general liability insurance.** It is recommended that you obtain at least three 'bids' and request at least three references from each bidder. Make sure all project expectations are in writing and only sign a contract if you completely understand the terms. Include in your contract a schedule of 'progress payments' for each phase of the work. Hold back 10% of the contract amount for at least two weeks after the contractor has completed the project 100. **Obtain lien releases for labor and material prior to making each progress payment.**

Never, ever, not even for a minute.

Stanford researchers found that a car's interior **temperature can heat up by an average of 40 degrees within an hour**, even with outside temperatures as low as 72 degrees. A cracked window had an insignificant effect on both the rate of heating and the final temperature after an hour. **Never leave children or pets alone and unattended in a car, not even for a minute.**

Graffiti Busters



Telephone 818-767-7711 or Fax 818-767-7737

Fast removal is imperative and proven to be the best deterrent.

Avoid Being the Victim of Fraud

The Federal Trade Commission reports that nearly 25 million Americans of the adult population experience consumer fraud each year.

The National Crime Prevention Council recommends these common sense precautions to avoid becoming a victim,
BE ALERT AND ASTUTE

Never give any personal information over the phone or Internet to caller or unfamiliar company. This also includes, credit card numbers, social security numbers, drivers license number, bank account numbers, mothers maiden name, date of birth, or birth place. Even though you will be told its for verification purposes, this information can be used for unauthorized card charges, bank account debits, and identity theft.

USE DIRECT DEPOSIT FOR INCOMING PAYMENTS

If you receive Social Security payments of Supplemental Security Income or other payments sent to your mail box, you may be at risk for theft. Direct deposit eliminates the risk of lost or stolen checks, and protects your identity. For more information on enrolling in direct deposit of your Social Security or SSI payment, call Go Direct toll-free help line at 800-333-1795 or sign up online at www.GoDirect.org

IT'S NOT RUDE TO BE SHREWD

Don't be afraid to rebuff telemarketers. A reputable company will put everything in writing and will mail you information to you so that you may review it carefully. Con artists often use official looking documents and forms. Do not use their links or web site addresses when providing them with information.

Instead go to web search engines and get the official link. Contact customer service to verify if they contacted you and requested information.

Be wary of emails offering "FREE" vacations, quick cures for health concerns, foreign lotteries, work at home offers, get rich schemes and requests for donations.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Register your telephone number with the National Do Not Call Registry at www.donotcall.gov. If someone rips you off, report it to local authorities, and your state consumer protection office. Don't be embarrassed, be determined



The telephone number to **Mission Area's front desk is (818) 838-9800**. You may call the station directly for any reason; such as information, crime related advice, quality of life concerns and to make crime reports. However, if you require police service for "crimes in progress", please call either **911** for emergencies or our **Dispatch Center (877) 275-5273** for non-emergencies. Please remember **not** to call Senior Lead Officer Ruiz to report crimes in progress or to report loud parties that require police response.



The MHNC Public Safety Committee

The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council Public Safety Committee (PSC) is designed to represent all Mission Hills Stakeholders with regard to public safety in Mission Hills. Addressing matters concerning safety, security and law enforcement

If you are interested volunteering for the Public Safety committee or any other MHNC committee call the MHNC at: 818-902-2361

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Zoning & Land Use

Mission Hills Plaza/Primestor proposed development

On March 29, 2012 the Zoning & Land Use committee met to begin the organization process for the structure and assignment of outreach duties for the Mission Hills Plaza/Primestor Ad Hoc Committee.

Member duties and responsibilities will also include a Recording Secretary to record meeting minutes and provide completed minutes for follow up and approval at future meetings and posting to the MHNC website; Selection of a Secretary to act as committee historian and correspondent and provide backup in the absence of the Recording Secretary.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Mission Hills Plaza/Primestor Ad Hoc Committee, please contact us at:
818-902-2361

Tenant Space 10310 N. Sepulveda Blvd. (old Empire Hardware site) has completed interior demolition. As of 05/07/2012 the LADBS Activity Report Application number 12016-10000-03969 shows no plans submitted and no current permits.

The Mission Hills Plaza is zoned C-2 and P-1. A change to the 'footprint' of the existing building would require a zone change and an amendment to the Cities General Plan. This would require submission to City Planning.

For upcoming information, Zoning & Land Use please visit our website at www.mhnconline.org

Beautification Committee

We're still looking for a few good ideas!

Blight & Neglect opens the door to an environment of crime.

Let's go Stakeholders. What are you waiting for? Submit your ideas for possible beautification and/or community projects today!

Once again, here are a few ideas.

- ✚ Restore San Jose Street School garden aka "Johnny's Garden"
- ✚ Spruce up Sepulveda Boulevard
- ✚ Concerts in the Park
- ✚ Mission Hills Gateway signs
- ✚ MHNC Boulevard Banners sponsored by local businesses
- ✚ Dog Park
- ✚ Bus benches with canopies and trash cans along Sepulveda Boulevard.

Nothing sends a more powerful message to would be criminals than a neglected neighborhood.

David Guzman, Chair

818-902-2361 or Email: DGuzman@mhnconline.org